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ABSTRACT

Title VI provides federal funds to states under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. This document describes Title VI programs and the use of funds in the Austin Independent School District, Texas (AISD). AISD's 1999-2000 Title VI allocation was $514,448 based on the district's October 1999 school enrollment, private school enrollment, and the numbers of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. These programs were funded by Title VI in the AISD in 1999-2000: (1) a coordinator of volunteers to coordinate and support volunteer efforts in the schools; (2) library resources, including materials; (3) a mathematics specialist focusing on professional development for teachers; (4) private school aid, especially library resources; (5) visiting teachers for all three school levels; and (6) Reading Recovery program expenses, including a teacher leader. The amounts of Title VI funds used for each of these areas are outlined. (SLD)

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FEEDBACK

Austin Independent School District

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TITLE VI SUMMARY 1999-2000

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Office of Program Evaluation

October 2000
Austin Independent School District

TITLE VI SUMMARY
1999-2000

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Title VI provides federal funds to states under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) as amended by *Public Law 103-382* in 1994. Title VI is intended to contribute to the improvement of elementary (including preschool) and secondary educational programs in both public and private nonprofit schools and institutions. According to Public Law 103-382, Title VI, Section 6001 (b), the purpose of Title VI programs is to:

- support local education reform efforts which are consistent with and support statewide reform efforts under Goals 2000: Educate America Act;
- support state and local efforts to accomplish the National Education Goals;
- provide funding to enable state and local educational agencies to implement promising educational reform programs;
- provide a continuing source of innovation and educational improvement, including support for library services and instructional and media materials; and
- meet the special educational needs of at-risk and high-cost students.

A school district receiving Title VI funds must use those funds to supplement and, to the extent practical, increase the level of funds that would be made available in the absence of Title VI funds. School districts may use Title VI funds to expand existing programs and/or add new programs, including the addition of staff and the acquisition of materials and equipment that would not otherwise be available from state and local funding sources. In no case, however, may a school district supplant local funds by replacing them with Title VI funds.

States earn Title VI funds based on their school-aged population. A school district's Title VI entitlement is based on the number of students enrolled in the district and in participating private nonprofit schools, and on the number of students who have been identified as low-income based on free or reduced-price meal counts. AISD's 1999-2000 allocation of $514,448 was based on AISD's October 1999 school enrollment of 76,857; area private nonprofit school enrollment of 6,377; and 38,127 AISD students who were eligible for free or reduced-price meals (49.6%). In addition, $61,455 was rolled forward from 1998-99, for a total available amount of $575,903 for the 1999-2000 school year. A total of $566,927 was allocated to the targeted assistance areas that Title VI funds support. The remaining $32,496 was allocated for management and evaluation of Title VI ($23,520) and indirect costs associated with the grant ($8,976). Table 1 presents the allocation, expenditures, number of students served and staff funded, and cost per student for each Title VI program.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS

COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS

During the 1999-2000 school year, the coordinator of volunteers reported that 1,579 volunteers donated 65,783 hours to AISD high schools, 842 volunteers donated 18,003 hours to AISD middle schools, and 8,611 volunteers donated 220,940 hours to AISD elementary schools. Additionally, 1,271 volunteers donated 3,939 hours at the district level. Using the national volunteer value of $14.80 per hour, volunteers altogether donated $5,307,561 worth of their time to AISD. These figures represent a 29% increase in volunteer hours and a 58% increase in dollar value of volunteer hours over the previous year.

During the 1999-2000 school year, Title VI allocated $35,181 and expended $33,459 for a half-time coordinator of volunteers to provide support for campus recruitment, retention, and recognition of community volunteers. The duties of this position included: development and distribution of materials, volunteer recruitment, coordination with other AISD departments and community groups on volunteerism and parenting, establishment of ongoing communication with other area volunteer agencies, coordination with community organizations for support of campus needs, and planning and implementing of district recognition activities for volunteers.

Table 1: 1999-2000 Title VI Program Summary

Title VI Component	Allocation from TitleVI*	Actual Expenditure	Number of Staff Funded	Number of Students Served	Cost Per Student
Coordinator of Volunteers	**$33,506**	**$33,459**	**1 part-time staff**	**N/A**	**N/A**
AISD Library Resources	$211,062	$180,110	N/A	77,738	$2.31
Instructional Materials	$84,609	$86,634	N/A	77,738	$1.11
Private Schools &Neg/Del.Facilities	$60,000	$49,354	N/A	6,377	$9.41
Visiting Teachers	$75,231	$81,120	1 full-time staff 1 part-time staff	N/A	N/A
Math Specialist	$51,242	$44,132	1 full-time staff	N/A	N/A
Reading Recovery	$27,757	$25,840	1 part-time Teacher Leader 1 part-time secretary	N/A	N/A
Management	$10,759	$10,105	1 part-time Accounting Technician	N/A	N/A
Evaluation	$12,761	$11,669	1 part-time evaluator	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	**$566,927**	**$522,424**	**6 part-time 2 full-time**	**84,115**	**N/A**

* Figures reflect Title VI allocations only. Programs may receive additional funds from other sources.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Title VI allocated $211,062 and expended $180,110 for all AISD elementary and secondary campuses to purchase library materials. Title VI funds may be used for the purchase of supplementary

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library materials, assessments, reference materials, media materials, and instructional and educational materials for any subject area and for any grade level. However, materials purchased through Title VI must focus on a particular purpose, reflect high academic standards, and must be part of an overall education reform program.

MATHEMATICS SPECIALIST

Title VI allocated $51,242 and expended $44,131 to provide the district with a mathematics specialist. The mathematics specialist spent the majority of her time planning and providing professional development training for middle school mathematics teachers. A portion of this staff development time was dedicated to keeping district mathematics teachers updated with national, state, and local standards and providing teachers with updates on TEA guidelines. The mathematics specialist also worked with mathematics teachers at low-performing schools in the district, assisting them with implementation of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, modeling lessons, and participating in team meetings.

PRIVATE NONPROFIT SCHOOLS

During the 1999-2000 school year, Title VI allocated $60,000 and expended $49,354 for 27 private, nonprofit schools and eight Neglected or Delinquent facilities. The funds provided library resources that served 4,679 students in private, nonprofit schools and 1,698 students in Neglected or Delinquent facilities. By law, Title VI funds are available through AISD to nonpublic, nonprofit schools within AISD boundaries. Private nonprofit schools are contacted each spring to determine if they would like to participate during the upcoming school year. Funds are then allocated to approved applicants on a per-pupil basis for purchase of items selected by schools. All purchases are made through AISD, and the District retains title to, and exercises administrative control of, all equipment and supplies.

Neither private, nonprofit school administrators nor Neglected or Delinquent facility administrators are required by AISD to report evaluation findings on the use of Title VI funds. However, of the administrators responding to a Title VI survey (N=27), 67% rated the overall effectiveness of Title VI-funded materials as *extremely effective*, 26% rated the materials as *highly effective*, and 7% rated the materials *moderately effective*.

VISITING TEACHERS

During the 1999-2000 school year, Title VI allocated $75,231 and expended $81,120 for two Visiting Teachers. One full-time and one part-time teacher provided support services for AISD students at two high schools (Bowie and McCallum), two middle/junior high schools (Bailey and Kealing), and ten elementary schools (Baranoff, Blackshear, Campbell, Kiker, Kocurek, Lee, Maplewood, Menchaca, Ridgetop, and Wooten). As part of the Department of School Support Services, the mission of the Visiting Teacher program is to support campuses in achieving success for all students by connecting students with district and community resources and providing direct and indirect services to students, parents, and staff.

During the 1999-2000 school year, Visiting Teachers attended parent conferences, located outside counseling services for students, provided counseling during situations where deaths or other crises had occurred, and assisted in locating dropouts and non-returning students. Visiting Teachers also conducted in-depth interviews with parents about their children's history and development to help the children obtain Special Education services. Other examples of situations where Visiting Teachers advocated for students occurred when: (a) students lacked clothing, shoes, electricity in the home, sufficient money for school supplies; (b) students were coping with parental abuse and divorce; and (c) students displayed a

general lack of interest in school. In addition, Visiting Teachers worked with numerous local agencies to link AISD students and their families to needed resources.

READING RECOVERY

Title VI allocated $27,757 for the Reading Recovery program during the 1999-2000 school year and expended $25,840. Title VI funds were used for a part-time Reading Recovery Teacher Leader and a part-time secretary. The Reading Recovery Teacher Leader's duties included teaching two students daily, monitoring trained Reading Recovery teachers and teachers-in-training, and conducting Literacy Support Specialist training.

REFERENCE

Patrick, E. S. (1999). Title VI: 1998-99 Feedback (OPE Publication Number 98.10). Austin, TX: Austin Independent School District, Department of Accountability, Office of Program Evaluation.

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